

WEST BUCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL

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The Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 4th January 2023 at 7.30pm in the Committee Room, West Buckland Village Hall.

Present: Cllr's C Silverlight (Chair), S Bellamy, J Nutt and A Paul.

In attendance: County Cllr R Henley and the Clerk, Mrs J Larcombe.

118/01/23. To accept apologies for absence. Apologies were accepted from Cllr Ms S Drury. Apologies were received from County Cllr S Wakefield.

119/01/23. Disclosure of interest in items on the agenda. There were no disclosures.

120/01/23. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 22/11/22 as an accurate record of the meeting. The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting and they were duly signed by the Chair.

121/01/23. Matters arising from the minutes not covered by the agenda. No matters arising.

122/01/23. Democratic Period. No members of the public present.

123/01/23. Update on broadband issues. No update.

124/01/23. Reports:

a) County Councillor. Cllr Henley told councillors he was still waiting for clarity on Local Community Network areas which are due to be announced this month. Noting that West Buckland does not have a bus service he drew councillors' attention to the SCC and Somerset Bus Partnership 'Bus it' campaign and the £2 single fare cap funded by the Government. Cllr Henley is still trying to get a bus route diversion to provide a service for West Buckland. Lots of different parishes and community groups are doing things such as providing warm spaces and hot food as part of the Warm Welcome Campaign. Cllr Silverlight, in his role of Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator, has been sent a map of warm space provision but he didn't feel that it was very comprehensive. A number of people have signed up to the SCC Getting Involved Campaign around the setting up of the new unitary council for Somerset.

Cllr Henley left the meeting.

b) District Councillor. No report.

c) Police. No report.

125/01/23. Planning:

a) To consider any planning applications received by the Parish Council prior to the meeting:

46/21/0037 Application for Outline Planning with some matters reserved, except for access, for the erection of a commercial development comprising of Class E g (i), ii) and iii), Class B2 with trade counters, food and drink uses (sui generis), other sui generis uses, access and associated infrastructure, parking, landscaping and drainage on land at Chelston Heath, Wellington – additional information. Comment: West Buckland Parish Council still have concerns over traffic levels using Chelston roundabout and feel these need to be addressed.

46/22/0011 Demolition of bungalow and erection of 1 No. dwelling and garage at Catsbear Farm, Ruggin Road, West Buckland (revised design - reduced scale / change to finish materials). Comment: West Buckland Parish Council considered the amended plans and noted there would still be a significant increase in size from the original. dwelling. The Parish Council's recommendation is refusal as this is contrary to TDBC Development Management Policy 2, 5 - is not substantially larger than the existing dwelling.

46/22/0021/LB Replacement of tiles at Ham Farm, Asham Lane, Ham, Wellington. Comment: West Buckland Parish Council has no objections.

46/22/0022 Demolition of outbuildings and erection of replacement Public House at Merry Harriers, Forches Corner, Clayhidon. Comment: West Buckland Parish Council recommend that consideration is given to improving the safety of the junction at Forches Corner. Whilst recognising that this is a replacement public house councillors are concerned that because of the location most visitors will need to use a vehicle to access it. There are also concerns that demolishing the outbuildings could mean the loss of the historical context of the use of the site by the Somerset Militia in the late 19th Century and the landscape context of the Leigh Hill Military Camp. It is recommended that the historical context needs to be investigated.

46/22/0023 Erection of detached garage with alterations to driveway at Meadow Bank, Silver Street, West Buckland. Comment: West Buckland Parish Council has no objections but question whether the Biodiversity Checklist should be completed

b) To receive decisions from planning applications determined by SWT Council.

46/22/0014/AGN Application for prior notification for the erection of an agricultural storage building on land off Pollards Lane, Silver Street, West Buckland. Decision: no objection.

46/22/0017/A Display of 5 No. internally illuminated fascia signs, 2 No. non-illuminated fascia signs, 1 No. internally illuminated pylon sign and 1 No. non-illuminated directional sign at Taunton Vale House, Summerfield Way, Chelston Business Park, Wellington. Decision: conditional approval granted.

c) Any other planning matters. Councillors noted an email from a resident who is concerned about the length of time the planning officer is taking to determine application 46/21/0032 - Change of use of land from agricultural to sui generis

(campsite) on land at Stable View, Calways Lane, West Buckland. A Freedom of Information request was made and the resident wrote that it revealed some worrying information.

Concern was expressed about what was considered to be unauthorised use of a piece of a field at Chelmsine Chapel. This is just outside of the West Buckland parish boundary.

126/01/23. Highways.

a) To note any required work to be reported to SCC. Calways Lane is in a particularly bad state. France Lane was closed for a week due to a water leak and subsequent water leaks.

b) To receive an update on any outstanding highways work. No update. Councillors noted that they had not received any reports of flooding in Silver Street/Frogs Lane even when there has been heavy rain.

c) Update on speed check. Kate Brown has said the average speeds along West Buckland Road were recorded between 29.7 – 32.9mph so she did not see why councillors would want to change the limit to 40mph if the average speeds are lower than this. It would also not meet the Department for Transport criteria for a 40mph limit. SCC would be happy to look at this extending the 20 mph limit in the village if the parish is willing to fund this. A rough estimate would be in the region of between £5,000 - £8,000 to replace the signs and lines and advertise the Traffic Regulation Order. The process can take several months and it would be advisable for the parish to carry out some local consultation prior to SCC progressing this to ensure that it had the support of the majority of residents and also flagged up any potential issues. Councillors questioned whether parishioners would be willing to pay for this.

d) Update on repairs to fingerpost sign on Buckland Hill. Kate Brown has contacted IDVerde who have said they will arrange for the sign to be repaired.

d) To discuss an email regarding concerns about school traffic. Councillors discussed an email from a parishioner who claimed the amount of school traffic at West Buckland is both frustrating and they believe unsafe to young pedestrians. Three ideas were put forward to improve things. The first involved creating a one way system for school traffic which would take cars along what was felt to be an unsuitable route, the second idea was staff car sharing and the third was asking the school staff to park further away from the school. The Clerk will acknowledge the email and inform the parishioner that their comments have been noted.

f) Response from Forestry Commission regarding damage to the fence at the top of Buckland Hill. David Lloyd, Beat Forester for Forestry England, has emailed to say that as the fence isn't falling over into the highway he will put it on his teams works plan for the new year as there are a number other posts that are loose or nearing replacement. Due to it being on a narrow public highway there's obvious safety element to consider but as it looks like they also have some tree safety works to do he will try to time it with traffic management for that.

g) Any other highways matters. No other highways matters.

127/01/23. Finance:

a) To agree and authorise any payments. It was resolved to make the following payments:

Mrs J Larcombe - £303.64 Clerk's salary and home working expenses for December (Payment ref: 2223/34)

HMRC - £36.80 PAYE (payment ref: 2223/35)

Darren Greenslade Landscape Gardener - £415.00 play equipment repairs
(Payment ref: 2223/36)

West Buckland Village Hall Committee - £32.00 room hire (Payment ref: 2223/37)
Since the last meeting a bank charge of £18.00 has been paid.

b) To discuss a grant application for funding towards the cost of providing a weekly warm space at the school. An application for a grant of £150.00 had been received from West Buckland Village Hall Committee. While councillors were supportive of the application they were concerned about the lack of detail on the application and felt they could be criticised by the internal auditor if they awarded the grant. The Clerk will ask for more detail.

c) To note any receipts since the last meeting and the bank account balances. Since the last meeting bank interest of £98.36 has been received. The Current account balance is £982.00 and the Instant Access balance is £29,977.33.

d) To agree the budget for 2023-24. Following the discussion at the last meeting the Clerk had revised the draft budget. It has been confirmed that Somerset Council will pay the £1,705 grant towards the upkeep of the Churchyard, the playing field and footpaths.

e) To agree the precept for 2023-24. It was agreed to request a precept of £10,888.00 for 2023-24. There will be no increase to the Band D rate.

128/01/23. Update on ordering of EV charging point. The grant has been agreed. The preferred contractor has been asked for a revised quote so that an order can be made.

129/01/23. Playing Field:

a) Any points to note from the regular inspections. Supports on the goal posts are bent, probably because people have been swinging on them.

b) Update on repairs following receipt of the annual inspection. There have been repairs to some of the equipment and the dip in front of one of the gates will be dealt with once the weather gets warmer.

c) Replacement of swings. This was deferred to the next meeting as Cllr Ms Drury was not able to attend the meeting due to illness.

d) Collection and planting of fruit trees. It is planned to collect and plant the fruit trees before the next meeting.

130/01/23. Footpaths: any footpath matters. No footpath matters.

131/01/23. Correspondence. There was no further correspondence.

132/01/23. Any urgent business at the Chairman's discretion (Not for Decisions). There was no urgent business.

133/01/23. To agree the date of the next meeting. 31st January 2023.

Signed:
Chairman

Date: